

February 6, 2022

Senator Lieber, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1518 – SUPPORT

Chair Lieber and members of the Committee,

I'm writing in support of the "Reach Code" bill (SB 1518). It's a forward-looking bill that can have a positive impact on our climate crisis and our economy.

Current state law holds communities back from enacting a more robust energy efficiency standard for new homes and buildings. Places like Bend, Hood River, Eugene, Ashland, Beaverton and others are growing rapidly. Buildings are often used for 50 to 100 years. Communities are asking for the choice of a stronger building code for energy efficiency now. Making our homes and workplaces more efficient reduces energy use, which can help homeowners and businesses save money on their energy bills, lower climate pollution and helps the investment retain its value as energy efficient buildings become more widely adopted. Marginal costs are minimal and typically part of the mortgage payment making the payback fast. Increasing the demand for energy efficiency will add jobs to the 30% of construction workers in Oregon already working in clean energy jobs, the vast majority of them in small businesses. These new technologies and construction techniques can help keep these companies stay on the forefront in a rapidly changing world as we grapple with the climate crisis. SB 1518 can help bring these and other benefits to many Oregonians, including our most impacted communities.

Please vote yes on SB 1518 and allow counties and cities to build for energy efficiency and a better climate.

Michael Mitton
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